

Magistrate Judge S. Kate Vaughan

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff

v.

NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER,
Defendant.

CASE NO. MJ25-284

COMPLAINT for VIOLATIONS
Title 21, U.S.C. Sections 841(a) and
841(b)(1)(B)
Title 18, U.S.C. Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i),
922(g)(1)

BEFORE, the Honorable S. Kate Vaughan, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S.
Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

COUNT 1

(Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute)

On or about June 19, 2024, in King County, within the Western District of
Washington, NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER did knowingly and intentionally possess, with
the intent to distribute, methamphetamine a substance controlled under Title 21, United
States Code.

1 It is further alleged that the offense involved 50 grams or more of a mixture or
 2 substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, optical and
 3 geometric isomers, and salts of isomers.

4 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and
 5 841(b)(1)(B).

6 **COUNT 2**

7 **(Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime)**

8 On or about June 18, 2024, in King County, within the Western District of
 9 Washington, NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER knowingly possessed a firearm, that is, an
 10 Anderson AM15 9mm rifle, in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may
 11 be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, *Possession of Controlled Substances*
 12 *with Intent to Distribute*, as alleged in Count 1 above.

13 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i).

14 **COUNT 3**

15 **(Unlawful Possession of Firearms)**

16 On or about June 19, 2024, in King County, in the Western District of Washington,
 17 NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER, knowing that he had been convicted of the following crimes,
 18 punishable by imprisonment for terms exceeding one year:

19 *Burglary in the Second Degree*, in King County Superior Court, Washington,

20 under cause number 17-C-00511-4, on or about August 24, 2018, and

21 *Attempted Arson in the First Degree*, in King County Superior Court, Washington,

22 under cause number 18-1-02434-6 on or about August 24, 2018

23 did knowingly possess firearms—including:

24 One Anderson AM15 9mm rifle;

25 One Kel-Tec .380 pistol;

26 One Smith & Wesson Bodyguard .380 caliber pistol;

1 said firearms having been shipped and transported in interstate commerce. In violation of
2 Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1).

3 I, Special Agent Daniel Rucker, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

4 **TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

5 1. I, Detective Daniel Rucker, am a duly sworn police officer with the City of
6 Everett Police Department, located in Everett, Washington. I have been employed as a
7 police officer since 1995. I am currently assigned to the Snohomish Regional Drug Task
8 Force, located within Snohomish County, Washington. I have been in this current
9 assignment since 2001, and am responsible for carrying out state drug and firearm
10 investigations, as well as asset seizure/forfeiture investigations. In 2014, I was assigned
11 as a Task Force Officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation – Seattle Field Office.
12 This collateral duty carries the responsibility of enforcing federal violations of both Title
13 21, United States Code (controlled substances), and Title 18, United States Code
14 (firearms).

15 2. As a law enforcement officer, my training has included attending and
16 successfully completing numerous courses to include: the Washington State Criminal
17 Justice Training Commission Basic Law Enforcement Academy (440 hours); the Drug
18 Enforcement Administration Basic Drug Investigator's Course (80 hours); Narcotics
19 Recognition and Investigation (50 hours); Asset Forfeiture Investigations (24 hours);
20 Money Laundering: Tracing Illicit Funds (16 hours); Analytical Investigation Methods
21 (40 hours); and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center sponsored Money Laundering
22 and Asset Forfeiture Training (36 hours).

23 3. During my employment as a law enforcement officer, I have been involved
24 in hundreds of drug investigations resulting in the issuance of search warrants, seizures of
25 controlled substances and firearms, seizures of real and personal property, and arrests of
26 drug and firearms traffickers.
27

1 4. Through my training and experience, I know that methamphetamine is
2 typically used in quantities of one tenth (.1) to one quarter (.25) of a gram, either
3 intravenously or by being smoked. A quarter gram of methamphetamine on the street can
4 sell for around \$20, an ounce for \$100-\$200, and a pound of methamphetamine can
5 generally sell, depending on many factors including quality, supply and locale, for
6 between \$1,400 to \$2,000. A person possessing approximately 343 grams of
7 methamphetamine does not possess it for personal use. Scales and smaller packaging
8 baggies are other common indicators of distribution when found with controlled
9 substances.

10 5. Through my training and experience, I know that firearms are considered
11 “tools of the trade” for drug distributors and used in furtherance of their illegal drug
12 distribution activities. I know that drug dealing is both a cash business and a very
13 dangerous business. Drug distributors regularly arm themselves with firearms to protect
14 themselves, their drugs, their profits, and livelihood, thus ensuring they can continue their
15 drug distribution activities. I know that individuals with felony convictions are willing to
16 risk being in possession of a firearm unlawfully because of the need for protection while
17 engaged in the drug distribution trade.

18 6. I make this Affidavit, in part, based on personal knowledge derived from my
19 participation in this investigation and, in part, based upon information gained from, but not
20 limited to, the following sources: (1) investigation conducted by other law enforcement
21 personnel, whose findings and observations have been reported to me either directly or
22 indirectly; (2) statements of witnesses; (3) business and public records; and (4) law
23 enforcement database inquiries.

24 7. Except as otherwise noted, the information set forth in this Affidavit has been
25 provided to me by other law enforcement officers. Unless otherwise noted, whenever in
26 this Affidavit I assert that a statement was made, the information was provided by another
27 law enforcement officer (who may have had either direct or hearsay knowledge of the

1 statement) to whom I have spoken or whose report I have read and reviewed. Such
2 statements are among many statements made by others and are stated in substance, not
3 verbatim, unless otherwise indicated.

4 8. Furthermore, my experience as an investigator forms a basis for the
5 opinions and conclusions set forth below. Because this Affidavit is offered for the
6 limited purpose of establishing probable cause that NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER
7 committed the offense of Possession with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm in
8 Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, and Felon in Possession of Firearms it does not
9 contain all of the information that law enforcement possesses relative to this
10 investigation. Dates and times provided herein are approximate.

11 **INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE CAUSE**

12 9. Nathaniel K. Grier has several felony convictions, including convictions for
13 *Burglary in the Second Degree* in King County Superior Court, Washington under cause
14 number 17-C-00511-4 with a sentencing date of August 24, 2018, and *Attempted Arson in*
15 *the First Degree*, in King County Superior Court, Washington under cause number 18-1-
16 02434-6 with a sentencing date of August 24, 2018.

17 10. In mid-June, 2024, Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force Detectives met
18 with a Confidential Source (CS) who identified a person named "Nate" who was selling
19 methamphetamine and firearms out of his RV, located on the shoulder of the 5500 block
20 of South 129th Street, Seattle, Washington. Law enforcement agents were able to fully
21 identify "Nate" as Nathaniel K. Grier (DOB 1988).

22 11. During a controlled buy operation, a confidential source (CS) met with
23 Grier, at the aforementioned RV in Seattle, Washington. The CS purchased an amount of
24 methamphetamine from Grier and observed multiple firearms within Grier's RV and his
25 associated box van. Based on the operation, probable cause was established for Grier's
26 arrest and a search warrant was granted for his RV and associated box van from the
27 Snohomish County Superior Court.

12. On June 19, 2024, detectives carried out an arrest operation and executed search warrants on Grier's RV, box van, and associated vehicles. Grier was followed away from his RV to a nearby gas station and arrested after a failed attempt to flee. Two handguns were recovered from the vehicle he was driving, specifically a Smith and Wesson Bodyguard .380 and a Kel-Tec .380. Search warrants were then served at Grier's RV and box van. Law enforcement recovered the following from inside the box van:

- a. a high-capacity drum magazine loaded with 58 live .223 rounds;
- b. five AR magazines loaded with live .223 rounds;
- c. a Benelli Super Black Eagle 3, partial barrel 12-gauge shotgun reported stolen from Seattle on February 18, 2024;
- d. a Springfield 12-gauge short barrel shotgun;
- e. an Anderson AM15 .223 caliber rifle;
- f. an Arsenal .762 caliber rifle;
- g. a Barrett Model 99 .50 caliber rifle;
- h. a Kalashnikov Model Saiga 12 12-gauge shotgun;
- i. a Remington Model 510 .22 caliber rifle;
- j. a Thompson .45 caliber rifle;
- k. a Springfield Model 30M1 Garand .308 caliber rifle reported stolen from Seattle on February 18, 2024;
- l. a Savage Arms .30 caliber rifle; and
- m. a Beretta handgun.

13. Law enforcement recovered the following from inside the bedroom of Grier's RV:

- 1 a. two bags of methamphetamine containing 310g and 32g,
2 respectively (positive field test);
3 b. 26g suspected counterfeit Xanax bars;
4 c. two digital scales and a plastic cup with residue;
5 d. packing materials; and
6 e. an Anderson AM15 9mm rifle, with 15 live rounds loaded in the
7 magazine and one live round loaded in the chamber.
8

9 14. I have reviewed GRIER's criminal history and confirmed he has been
10 convicted of no less than eight felonies in Washington State, to include:

- 11 a. One count of Attempted Arson in the First Degree in 2018;
12 b. Four counts of Burglary in the Second Degree in 2018 and 2015;
13 c. One count of Theft in the First Degree in 2018; and
14 d. One Count of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle in 2015.
15

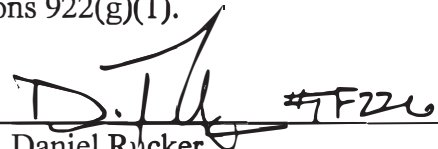
16 15. I have examined and photographed the above listed firearms. I have also
17 consulted with and provided the firearms or photos of the following firearms to Special
18 Agent Brian Arnold: (1) one Anderson AM15 9mm rifle;(2) one Kel-Tec .380 pistol; and
19 (3) one Smith & Wesson Bodyguard .380 caliber pistol. Special Agent Arnold is an
20 Interstate Nexus Expert, and has additional training in determining the location of a
21 particular firearm's manufacture. Based on his training and experience, Special Agent
22 Arnold knows that the firearms listed above were not manufactured in Washington.
23 Consequently, since the firearms were recovered in Washington, Special Agent Arnold
24 and I believe, that the above listed firearms traveled in and affected interstate commerce.
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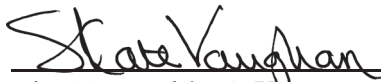
CONCLUSION

16. Based on the aforementioned facts, there is probable cause to believe that NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER committed the crimes of Possession with Intent to Distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B), Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i), and Felon in Possession of Firearms in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1).


Daniel Rucker
Detective, Snohomish County
Task Force Officer, FBI

On this date, the above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the contents of the foregoing Affidavit, and based on the sworn Complaint and Affidavit, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the defendant NATHANIEL KAIN GRIER committed the offenses set forth in the Complaint.

DATED this 9th day of May, 2025.


The Honorable S. Kate Vaughan
United States Magistrate Judge